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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) System comprising a gear pump [(1)] and a screw-type extruder [(10)] for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc media, which comprises a screw [(11)] and a screw casing [(12)], the screw-type extruder [(10)] being arranged in front of the gear pump [(1)] viewed in the delivery direction [(6)] of the pumping medium,

[characterized in that] wherein the screw casing [(12)] has at least one conical part [(15)], and the screw [(11)] has at least one tapering in [the] an area of the conical part [(15)], and [in that] wherein the screw [(11)] is axially displaceable in the screw casing [(12)] for the controlled feeding of energy into the pumping medium.

2. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 1,

[characterized in that] wherein the tapering of the screw [(11)] as well as the conical part [(15)] are provided on the gear-pump-side end of the screw-type extruder [(10)].

3. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 1 [or 2],

[characterized in that] wherein the tapering of the screw [(11)] increases viewed in the delivery direction [(6)] of the medium.

4. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1,

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wherein the screw [(11)] has a double-helix-type construction.

5. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a tangential plane on the screw [(11)] in the area of the tapering encloses an angle of from 2 to 10, preferably 8, with the center axis of the screw [(11)].

6. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the length of the screw [(11)] is less than five times, preferably three times, the diameter of the screw [(11)].

7. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw-type extruder (10) has a cylindrical part in addition to the conical part (15).

8. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 7,

[characterized in that] wherein the ratio of the length of the conical part (15) to the length of the cylindrical part is between 1:2 to 1:5, preferably approximately 1:4.

9. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] Claim 1,

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wherein the length of the cone (15) is less than the diameter of the screw (11).

10. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw (11) and/or the screw casing (12) each have one hollow space respectively with at least two openings (31, 33, 35, 36) for admitting and discharging a temperature adjusting medium (3).

11. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a filter [(20)] is provided which, viewed in the delivery direction [(6)], is arranged behind the gear pump[(1)].

12. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a metal detector [(23)] is arranged in front of the gear pump [(1)], preferably in front of the screw-type extruder [(10)], and [in that]

wherein a control unit [(22)] is provided which is operatively connected with drives of the screw [(11)] and of the gear pump [(1)] and with the metal detector [(23)].

13. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw [(11)] projects into the case of the gear pump [(1)].

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14. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 11 to 13, characterized in that] Claim 11,

wherein the filter [(20)] is arranged between the gear pump [(1)] and the spraying head [(21)].

15. (AMENDED) Use of the system according to [one of Claims 1 to 14] Claim 1 for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc.

16. (AMENDED) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 12 to 14, characterized in that] Claim 12,

wherein, when a metal piece is detected, the delivery of the pumping medium is interrupted in that the drives of the screw [(11)] and of the gear pump [(1)] are stopped.

17. (AMENDED) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 12 to 14, characterized in that] Claim 12,

wherein a detection of a metal piece is indicated to an operator who intervenes in the transport process of the pumping medium for removing the metal piece without requiring an interruption of the production process.